

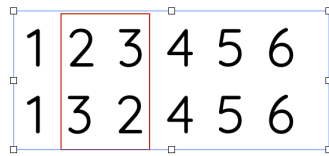


Call Changes

Learn how Call Change ringing works...

What are Call Changes?

- This is probably where most people begin their journey into the world changes. It is very simple because you largely do as you are told, but sometimes you might have to work some bits out.



- In the change above the two and three have swapped places. This means that 3 bells will be implicated in the change.
 - 2 has moved one place later and is following 3
 - 3 has moved one place earlier and is following 1.
 - Four has not moved, but because the other two have swapped, 4 now follows 2

Calling Changes

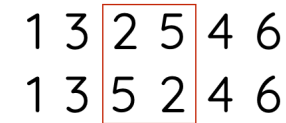
- When calling a call change, the conductor may only call one of the instructions and expect the team to work out the implication and the other changes.



- If we call 4 to 5... then four will follow 5. However 5 will also know that they have to change because the bell they were following is now following them!
- Six will also know they have to change... 5 is no longer available because 4 is following it... so they can follow 4.
- But who does 5 follow?This is the tricky bit!
 - The answer is: The bell that 4 was following... so one bell further ahead... but seeing this is not always quite so simple, especially once the order is mixed up.
- Often a conductor will help a beginner by calling all three changes... 4 to 5, 5 to 3, 6 to 4, but ideally, you should try to work it out for yourself.

Down or Up?

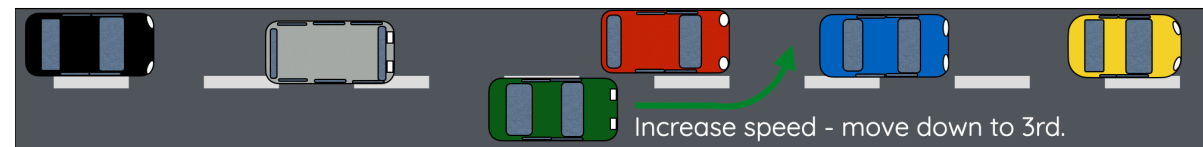
- When a conductor calls the change they can call down or up... some towers prefer to call down, some insist on calling up, some happily do either - although hopefully not at the same time!
- If you are to cope with visiting other towers, or others visiting your tower, you need to be able to cope with both system... the difference is actually marginal... just which of the three instructions is given and which you have to work out...



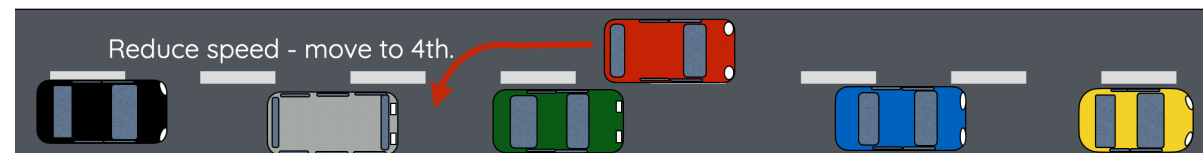
- In this example, three bells are affected, so three calls would provide the full set of instructions.
 - 2 to 5. This is the **up call**, because 2 has moved **up** into fourths place.
 - 5 to 3. This is the **down call**, because 5 has moved **down** past 2. into seconds place.
 - The last option... 4 to 2 would never be called alone because there is no associated move, just an adjustment because of the other two. If you called 4 to 2, it would be interpreted as four moving down one place and swapping with 5... which is something completely different!

Over-take or Under-take...

- In a cue of traffic, if someone over-takes, they will swap places with the car in front.



- The same result could be achieved by the car in front under-taking... although it is not something most drivers ever contemplate!



- So calling **down** is like over-taking... calling **up** is similar to under-taking.

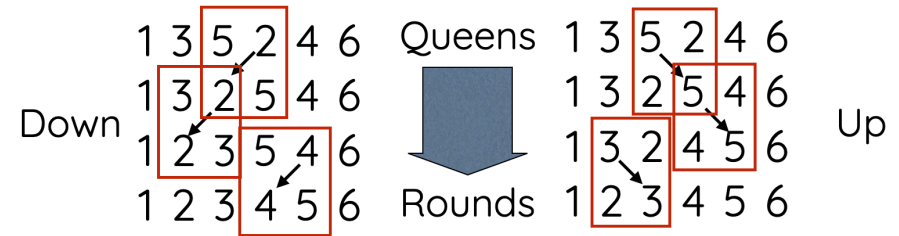
Up or Down... Does it matter?

- So calling up or down is simply a matter of which of the three calls the conductor gives to the band... and which you work out yourself... Either way, it amounts to the same thing.
- So lets look at the difference in a real example...

1 4 2 3 5 6
1 4 2 5 3 6

- If we call up, we call 3 to 5.
 - 6 knows that because 3 is following 5, they will now follow 3.
 - 5 needs to move down - i.e. work out who 3 was following and follow them... **That is the tricky bit!** So you have to look one place ahead...
- If we call down, we call 5 to 2... Tricky bit done!
 - 3 also knows to follow 5... because 5 has taken their position.
 - 6 to ?... **This is now the tricky bit..** but as 6 is static, it is possibly easier to cope... Just 'keep calm and carry on'... and look round to see who is now watching 5!
- Either way, one of the bells has more to work out... That's the tricky bit!
- So why the difference?...it is actually about the conductor, not the ringers...
- It is how the conductor thinks about moving the bells in their head... One way is about moving bells from back to front... the other moves bells from front to back...
- Like overtaking or undertaking, exactly the same result can be achieved, but the logic process is reversed.
- Expecting a conductor to work the other way is tricky and the result is often complete confusion... simply because as a conductor you have to have in your mind where you are going and be thinking ahead...
- Even good ringers will struggle with calling the 'wrong way'... they have to think what they want to do, then convert each thought to work out what the inverse is. It is like driving a car in France... some controls are back to front and so is the road! It takes a lot of concentration and it is easy to get muddled!

The two thought processes..



- The changes above are the same, both systematically move bells back into place... But one shows arrows for the down calls and the other for the up calls.
- Both give the same end result, but for the conductor the thought processes are reversed... and the intermediate stages might be slightly different.
- The down conductor will choose to move 2 down 2 places and then 4 down 1 place.
- The up conductor will choose to move 5 up 2 places and 3 up 1 place.

Which is best?

- For the listener, it does not matter which system the conductor uses... the end result is the same. Beautiful, musical changes...
- It is about personal preference and how the conductor thinks when planning the changes...
- If you were trained in an 'up' tower, you will almost certainly call up... however, towers and conductors split roughly 50/50 as to which they choose!
- As a ringer, it is best to be able to use both systems as you never know when you will need to ring with a conductor who works the other way...
- As a conductor... trying to think the other way around can be very confusing... and that means for everyone.

Planning to Conduct?

- Once you can ring call changes without help, you will be able to work out the missing 'up' or 'down' numbers...
- So now it is a good time to start your conducting career and call the changes...
- A good place to start is with a piece of paper...
 - Choose a well known change that you like and then look at who you will swap to make it happen.
 - List the swaps and perhaps also look at all three calls you might need to provide to a learner art each individual swap.
 - Then look at what you need to do to get them back again! Try to do the swaps in a different order, so it creates different changes...

Should I Conduct?

- For most, conducting is a scary thought... CAN I REALLY DO THIS?
- The answer is 'Yes', of course you can... but the first time will indeed be scary! Everyone will be waiting (and hopefully acting) on your every word!
- So before you make this leap, be sure to prepare yourself well... It will only take a few minutes!
 - For your first go... KEEP IT SIMPLE and plan what you want to do on paper...
 - Think about the rows you want to hear and then the calls you will have to make.
 - Learn the route to each of your chosen 'important changes'.
- As you get more experienced, you will find you can plan as you go and will see so much more.

